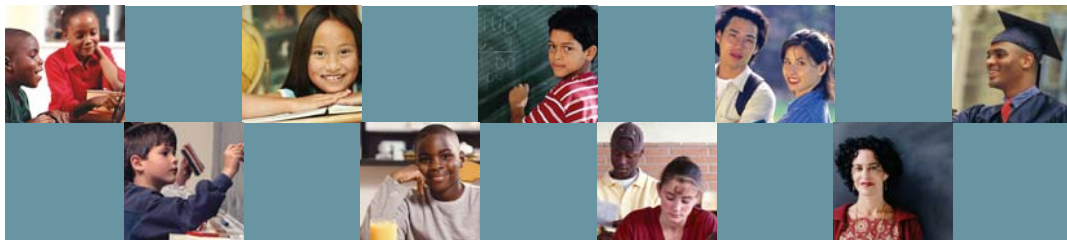


# the condition of education 2006



## INDICATOR 29

### Immediate Transition to College

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2006*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2006*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.sap?pubid=2006071>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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# Transition to College

## Immediate Transition to College

*The immediate college enrollment rate increased from 49 percent in 1972 to 67 percent in 2004. The gap between Blacks and Whites first widened between 1977 and 1983 but then narrowed between 1998 and 2001, while the gap between Hispanics and Whites widened between 1979 and 1997.*

The percentage of high school completers<sup>1</sup> who enroll in college in the fall immediately after high school reflects the accessibility of and the value placed on college education. The immediate college (2- or 4-year) enrollment rate for all high school completers ages 16–24 increased between 1972 and 1997 from 49 to 67 percent. Then, the enrollment rate declined to 62 percent by 2001, before rising again to 67 percent in 2004 (see supplemental table 29-1).

Between 1972 and 1978, approximately half of White high school completers immediately enrolled in college; the rate increased to 68 percent by 1997, but decreased to 64 percent by 2001 before increasing to 69 percent by 2004. The annual Black immediate enrollment rate was stable between 1972 and 1977; it then decreased between 1978 and 1983, increasing the gap between Blacks and Whites. The rate for Blacks then increased between 1984 and 2004 so that the gap narrowed between Blacks and Whites between 1998 and 2001. For Hispanics, the annual rate fluctuated over time, resulting in a nearly flat trend between 1972 and 2002 before the rate increased to 62 percent by

2004. The gap between Hispanics and Whites widened between 1979 and 1997.

From 1972 to 2004, the immediate enrollment rate of high school completers increased faster for females than for males (see supplemental table 29-2). Much of the growth in the overall rate for females was due to increases between 1981 and 1997 in the rate of attending 4-year institutions. During this period, the rate at which females enrolled at 4-year institutions increased faster than that of their male counterparts and than that of either males or females at 2-year institutions.

Differences in immediate enrollment rates by family income and parents' education have persisted. In each year between 1972 and 2004, the immediate college enrollment rate was higher for high school completers from high-income<sup>2</sup> families than for their low-income peers (see supplemental table 29-1). Likewise, compared with completers whose parents had a bachelor's or higher degree, those whose parents had less education had lower immediate enrollment rates in each year between 1992 and 2004 (see supplemental table 29-3).<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Refers to those who completed 12 years of school for survey years 1972–1991 and to those who earned a high school diploma or equivalent (e.g., a General Educational Development [GED] certificate) for years since 1992. See supplemental note 2 for more information.

<sup>2</sup> Low income is the bottom 20 percent of all family incomes, high income is the top 20 percent of all family incomes, and middle income is the 60 percent in between. See supplemental note 2 for further information.

<sup>3</sup> The earliest year with comparable data available for parents' educational attainment is 1992.

NOTE: Includes those ages 16–24 completing high school in a given year. Actual rates are annual estimates; trend rates show the linear trend of these annual values over the time period shown. The Current Population Survey (CPS) questions used to obtain educational attainment were changed in 1992. In 1994, the survey methodology for the CPS was changed and weights were adjusted. See supplemental note 2 for further discussion. Black includes African American and Hispanic includes Latino. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin unless specified. The erratic nature of the Hispanic rate reflects, in part, the small sample size of Hispanics.

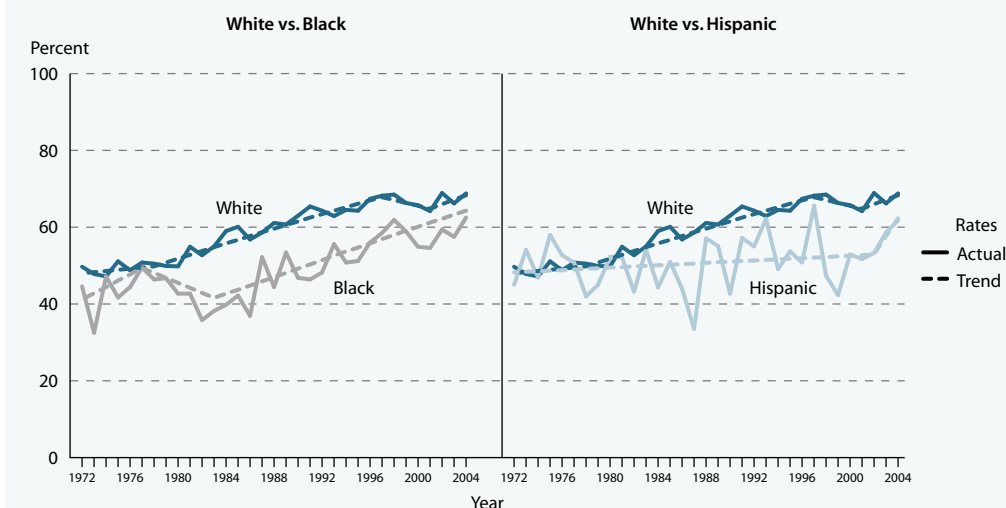
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1972–2004, previously unpublished tabulation for 2004 (November 2005).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Supplemental Notes 1, 2  
Supplemental Tables 29-1,  
29-2, 29-3



**COLLEGE ENROLLMENT RATES: Actual and trend rates of high school completers who were enrolled in college the October immediately after completing high school, by race/ethnicity: 1972–2004**



## Immediate Transition to College

**Table 29-1. Percentage of high school completers who were enrolled in college the October immediately after completing high school, by family income and race/ethnicity: 1972–2004**

Year	Total	Family income <sup>1</sup>			Race/ethnicity <sup>2</sup>				
		Low		Middle	High	White	Black	Hispanic	
		Annual	3-year average <sup>3</sup>	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	3-year average <sup>3</sup>	Annual
1972	49.2	26.1	†	45.2	63.8	49.7	44.6	†	45.0
1973	46.6	20.3	†	40.9	64.4	47.8	32.5	41.4	54.1
1974	47.6	—	†	—	—	47.2	47.2	40.5	46.9
1975	50.7	31.2	†	46.2	64.5	51.1	41.7	44.5	58.0
1976	48.8	39.1	32.3	40.5	63.0	48.8	44.4	45.3	52.7
1977	50.6	27.7	32.4	44.2	66.3	50.8	49.5	46.8	50.8
1978	50.1	31.4	29.8	44.3	64.0	50.5	46.4	47.5	42.0
1979	49.3	30.5	31.6	43.2	63.2	49.9	46.7	45.2	45.0
1980	49.3	32.5	32.2	42.5	65.2	49.8	42.7	44.0	52.3
1981	53.9	33.6	32.9	49.2	67.6	54.9	42.7	40.3	52.1
1982	50.6	32.8	33.6	41.7	70.9	52.7	35.8	38.8	43.2
1983	52.7	34.6	34.0	45.2	70.3	55.0	38.2	38.0	54.2
1984	55.2	34.5	36.3	48.4	74.0	59.0	39.8	39.9	44.3
1985	57.7	40.2	35.9	50.6	74.6	60.1	42.2	39.5	51.0
1986	53.8	33.9	36.8	48.5	71.0	56.8	36.9	43.5	44.0
1987	56.8	36.9	37.6	50.0	73.8	58.6	52.2	44.2	33.5
1988	58.9	42.5	42.4	54.7	72.8	61.1	44.4	49.7	57.1
1989	59.6	48.1	45.6	55.4	70.7	60.7	53.4	48.0	55.1
1990	60.1	46.7	44.8	54.4	76.6	63.0	46.8	48.9	42.7
1991	62.5	39.5	42.2	58.4	78.2	65.4	46.4	47.2	57.2
1992	61.9	40.9	43.6	57.0	79.0	64.3	48.2	50.0	55.0
1993	62.6	50.4	44.7	56.9	79.3	62.9	55.6	51.3	62.2
1994	61.9	43.3	42.0	57.8	77.9	64.5	50.8	52.4	49.1
1995	61.9	34.2	42.1	56.0	83.5	64.3	51.2	52.9	53.7
1996	65.0	48.6	47.1	62.7	78.0	67.4	56.0	55.4	50.8
1997	67.0	57.0	50.6	60.7	82.2	68.2	58.5	58.8	65.6
1998	65.6	46.4	50.9	64.7	77.5	68.5	61.9	59.8	47.4
1999	62.9	49.4	48.5	59.4	76.1	66.3	58.9	58.6	42.3
2000	63.3	49.7	47.8	59.5	76.9	65.7	54.9	56.3	52.9
2001	61.7	43.8	50.0	56.3	79.9	64.2	54.6	56.3	51.7
2002	65.2	56.4	51.0	60.7	78.2	68.9	59.4	57.2	53.3
2003	63.9	52.8	53.1	57.6	80.1	66.2	57.5	60.0	58.6
2004	66.7	49.6	†	63.5	79.3	68.8	62.5	†	61.8

— Not available. Data on family income were not available in 1974.

† Not applicable because data for one of the three consecutive years are missing or one of the years is not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Low income is the bottom 20 percent of all family incomes, high income is the top 20 percent of all family incomes, and middle income is the 60 percent in between. See *supplemental note 2* for further discussion.

<sup>2</sup> Included in the total but not shown separately are high school completers from other racial/ethnic groups. Black includes African American and Hispanic includes Latino. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin unless specified.

<sup>3</sup> Due to small sample sizes for the low-income, Black, and Hispanic categories, 3-year averages also were calculated for each category. For example, the 3-year average for Blacks in 1977 is the average percentage of Black high school completers ages 16–24 who were enrolled in college the October after completing high school in 1976, 1977, and 1978.

NOTE: Includes those ages 16–24 completing high school in a given year. The Current Population Survey (CPS) questions about educational attainment were reworded in 1992. Before then, “high school completers” meant those who completed 12 years of schooling; beginning in 1992, it meant those who received a high school diploma or equivalency certificate. In 1994, the survey methodology for the CPS was changed and weights were adjusted.

See *supplemental note 2* for further discussion. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1972–2004, previously unpublished tabulation for 2004 (November 2005).

## Immediate Transition to College

**Table 29-2. Percentage of high school completers who were enrolled in college the October immediately after completing high school, by sex and type of institution: 1972–2004**

Year	Male			Female		
	Total	2-year <sup>1</sup>	4-year <sup>1</sup>	Total	2-year <sup>1</sup>	4-year <sup>1</sup>
1972	52.7	—	—	46.0	—	—
1973	50.0	14.6	35.4	43.4	15.2	28.2
1974	49.4	16.6	32.8	45.9	13.9	32.0
1975	52.6	19.0	33.6	49.0	17.4	31.6
1976	47.2	14.5	32.7	50.3	16.6	33.8
1977	52.1	17.2	35.0	49.3	17.8	31.5
1978	51.1	15.6	35.5	49.3	18.3	31.0
1979	50.4	16.9	33.5	48.4	18.1	30.3
1980	46.7	17.1	29.7	51.8	21.6	30.2
1981	54.8	20.9	33.9	53.1	20.1	33.0
1982	49.1	17.5	31.6	52.0	20.6	31.4
1983	51.9	20.2	31.7	53.4	18.4	35.1
1984	56.0	17.7	38.4	54.5	21.0	33.5
1985	58.6	19.9	38.8	56.8	19.3	37.5
1986	55.8	21.3	34.5	51.9	17.3	34.6
1987	58.3	17.3	41.0	55.3	20.3	35.0
1988	57.1	21.3	35.8	60.7	22.4	38.3
1989	57.6	18.3	39.3	61.6	23.1	38.5
1990	58.0	19.6	38.4	62.2	20.6	41.6
1991	57.9	22.9	35.0	67.1	26.8	40.3
1992	60.0	22.1	37.8	63.8	23.9	40.0
1993	59.9	22.9	37.0	65.2	22.8	42.4
1994	60.6	23.0	37.5	63.2	19.1	44.1
1995	62.6	25.3	37.4	61.3	18.1	43.2
1996	60.1	21.5	38.5	69.7	24.6	45.1
1997	63.6	21.4	42.2	70.3	24.1	46.2
1998	62.4	24.4	38.0	69.1	24.3	44.8
1999	61.4	21.0	40.5	64.4	21.1	43.3
2000	59.9	23.1	36.8	66.2	20.0	46.2
2001	59.7	18.6	41.1	63.6	20.7	42.9
2002	62.1	20.5	41.7	68.3	23.0	45.3
2003	61.2	21.9	39.3	66.5	21.0	45.5
2004	61.4	21.8	39.6	71.5	23.1	48.5

— Not available. Data on type of institution were not collected until 1973.

<sup>1</sup> For the years 1973 through 1986, among high school completers ages 16–24 who enrolled immediately in college, about 3–9 percent were not asked the question about the type of institutions attended due to a skip pattern in the Current Population Survey (CPS). Such respondents were assumed to have the same probability of enrolling at a 2- or 4-year institution as those who were asked the question.

NOTE: Includes those ages 16–24 completing high school in a given year. The Current Population Survey (CPS) questions about educational attainment were reworded in 1992. Before then, “high school completers” meant those who completed 12 years of schooling; beginning in 1992, it meant those who received a high school diploma or equivalency certificate. In 1994, the survey methodology for the CPS was changed and weights were adjusted. See *supplemental note 2* for further discussion. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1972–2004, previously unpublished tabulation for 2004 (November 2005).

## Immediate Transition to College

**Table 29-3. Percentage of high school completers who were enrolled in college the October immediately after completing high school, by parents' education: 1992–2004**

Year	Total	Less than high school	High school diploma or equivalent	Some college, including vocational/technical	Bachelor's degree or higher	Not available <sup>1</sup>
1992	61.9	33.1	55.5	67.5	81.3	38.0
1993	62.6	47.1	52.3	62.7	87.9	42.0
1994	61.9	43.0	49.9	65.0	82.5	43.1
1995	61.9	27.3	47.0	70.2	87.7	30.8
1996	65.0	45.0	56.1	66.6	85.2	45.6
1997	67.0	51.4	61.7	62.6	86.1	51.3
1998	65.6	49.8	57.2	67.7	82.3	50.1
1999	62.9	36.3	54.4	60.3	82.2	53.1
2000	63.3	44.4	51.8	63.8	81.2	50.5
2001	61.7	39.0	51.9	62.0	81.3	41.9
2002	65.2	43.3	51.9	65.9	82.6	58.7
2003	63.9	43.3	53.9	62.9	82.1	48.8
2004	66.7	39.6	54.7	66.5	85.8	54.4

<sup>1</sup>Parents' education is not available for those who do not live with their parents and who are classified as a householder and for those whose parents' educational attainment was not reported. About 9–14 percent of high school completers ages 16–24 were in this category for the period covered. See *supplemental note 2* for CPS definition for parents' education.

NOTE: Includes those ages 16–24 completing high school in a given year. "High school completers" meant those who received a high school diploma or equivalency certificate. In 1994, the survey methodology for the CPS was changed and weights were adjusted. See *supplemental note 2* for further discussion.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1992–2004, previously unpublished tabulation for 2004 (November 2005).

## Immediate Transition to College

**Table S29.** Standard errors for the actual and trend rates of high school completers who were enrolled in college the October immediately after completing high school, by race/ethnicity: 1972–2004

Year	Race/ethnicity		
	White	Black	Hispanic
1972	1.42	4.62	9.74
1973	1.40	4.30	9.01
1974	1.39	4.58	8.94
1975	1.37	4.69	8.44
1976	1.43	4.82	7.97
1977	1.41	4.65	7.96
1978	1.41	4.51	8.44
1979	1.41	4.69	7.92
1980	1.43	4.44	8.70
1981	1.44	4.44	8.19
1982	1.52	4.33	7.96
1983	1.55	4.34	8.96
1984	1.54	4.15	7.67
1985	1.62	4.78	9.76
1986	1.62	4.38	8.85
1987	1.65	4.82	8.25
1988	1.79	4.91	10.14
1989	1.85	5.27	10.51
1990	1.80	5.08	10.82
1991	1.82	5.25	9.58
1992	1.84	4.92	8.50
1993	1.85	5.28	8.22
1994	1.61	4.42	6.28
1995	1.64	4.20	4.92
1996	1.67	4.03	5.79
1997	1.64	4.12	4.53
1998	1.61	4.05	4.92
1999	1.64	3.86	4.76
2000	1.66	4.11	5.03
2001	1.64	3.97	5.33
2002	1.53	3.84	4.55
2003	1.61	4.25	4.61
2004	1.57	3.77	4.76

NOTE: Standard errors are not available for trend rates, which are projections from model fitting by logistically regressing the college enrollment likelihood on the year factor.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1972–2004, previously unpublished tabulation for 2004 (November 2005).

## Immediate Transition to College

**Table S29-1. Standard errors for the percentage of high school completers who were enrolled in college the October immediately after completing high school, by family income and race/ethnicity: 1972–2004**

Year	Total	Family income			Race/ethnicity					
		Low		Middle	High	White	Black		Hispanic	
		Annual	3-year average	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	3-year average	Annual	3-year average
1972	1.31	3.45	†	1.75	2.19	1.42	4.62	†	9.74	†
1973	1.29	3.18	†	1.70	2.13	1.40	4.30	2.62	9.01	5.33
1974	1.28	†	†	†	†	1.39	4.58	2.63	8.94	5.09
1975	1.26	3.59	†	1.69	2.09	1.37	4.69	2.71	8.44	4.88
1976	1.31	4.20	2.17	1.76	2.06	1.43	4.82	2.72	7.97	4.68
1977	1.29	3.54	2.22	1.76	2.01	1.41	4.65	2.70	7.96	4.72
1978	1.28	3.74	2.13	1.74	2.05	1.41	4.51	2.67	8.44	4.69
1979	1.28	3.78	2.11	1.74	2.04	1.41	4.69	2.62	7.92	4.83
1980	1.30	3.47	2.14	1.78	2.08	1.43	4.44	2.61	8.70	4.78
1981	1.30	3.90	2.11	1.75	2.09	1.44	4.44	2.50	8.19	4.68
1982	1.36	3.81	2.29	1.81	2.13	1.52	4.33	2.57	7.96	4.94
1983	1.39	4.02	2.20	1.88	2.17	1.55	4.34	2.47	8.96	4.72
1984	1.37	3.62	2.26	1.89	2.09	1.54	4.15	2.54	7.67	4.89
1985	1.45	4.14	2.18	2.02	2.16	1.62	4.78	2.55	9.76	5.18
1986	1.43	3.59	2.23	1.97	2.28	1.62	4.38	2.71	8.85	5.20
1987	1.46	3.88	2.21	2.07	2.16	1.65	4.82	2.65	8.25	5.04
1988	1.57	4.39	2.54	2.14	2.52	1.79	4.91	2.98	10.14	5.99
1989	1.64	4.56	2.66	2.28	2.61	1.85	5.27	2.98	10.51	6.33
1990	1.60	4.76	2.63	2.14	2.54	1.80	5.08	2.97	10.82	5.70
1991	1.62	4.50	2.62	2.25	2.39	1.82	5.25	2.93	9.58	5.52
1992	1.58	4.37	2.60	2.18	2.35	1.84	4.92	2.98	8.50	5.04
1993	1.59	4.56	2.55	2.15	2.46	1.85	5.28	2.97	8.22	4.97
1994	1.43	3.96	2.27	1.94	2.22	1.61	4.42	2.52	6.28	3.23
1995	1.41	3.56	2.16	2.00	1.86	1.64	4.20	2.40	4.92	3.18
1996	1.42	3.78	2.18	1.95	2.27	1.67	4.03	2.41	5.79	2.96
1997	1.38	3.66	2.14	1.97	1.98	1.64	4.12	2.35	4.53	2.93
1998	1.38	3.62	2.11	1.89	2.21	1.61	4.05	2.31	4.92	2.79
1999	1.38	3.66	2.11	1.90	2.22	1.64	3.86	2.31	4.76	2.84
2000	1.41	3.67	2.14	1.97	2.22	1.66	4.11	2.34	5.03	2.96
2001	1.41	3.61	2.07	1.97	2.08	1.64	3.97	2.25	5.33	2.80
2002	1.31	3.60	2.14	1.78	2.11	1.53	3.84	2.32	4.55	2.77
2003	1.35	3.83	2.18	1.87	2.02	1.61	4.25	2.27	4.61	2.68
2004	1.31	3.87	†	1.79	2.02	1.57	3.77	†	4.76	†

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1972–2004, previously unpublished tabulation for 2004 (November 2005).

## Immediate Transition to College

**Table S29-2. Standard errors for the percentage of high school completers who were enrolled in college the October immediately after completing high school, by sex and type of institution: 1972–2004**

Year	Male			Female		
	Total	2-year	4-year	Total	2-year	4-year
1972	1.89	†	†	1.81	†	†
1973	1.87	1.32	1.79	1.77	1.28	1.61
1974	1.85	1.37	1.74	1.77	1.23	1.66
1975	1.83	1.44	1.73	1.75	1.32	1.62
1976	1.87	1.32	1.76	1.82	1.35	1.72
1977	1.87	1.41	1.79	1.77	1.36	1.65
1978	1.87	1.36	1.79	1.76	1.36	1.63
1979	1.88	1.41	1.78	1.76	1.35	1.62
1980	1.86	1.40	1.70	1.81	1.49	1.66
1981	1.86	1.52	1.77	1.82	1.46	1.72
1982	1.95	1.48	1.81	1.90	1.54	1.76
1983	2.03	1.63	1.89	1.91	1.48	1.82
1984	1.99	1.53	1.95	1.90	1.55	1.80
1985	2.08	1.69	2.06	2.02	1.61	1.97
1986	2.06	1.70	1.97	1.99	1.50	1.89
1987	2.09	1.60	2.09	2.04	1.65	1.95
1988	2.24	1.85	2.17	2.20	1.88	2.19
1989	2.35	1.84	2.32	2.27	1.97	2.28
1990	2.29	1.85	2.26	2.24	1.87	2.28
1991	2.33	1.98	2.25	2.22	2.09	2.32
1992	2.24	1.89	2.21	2.23	1.98	2.27
1993	2.33	2.00	2.30	2.17	1.91	2.25
1994	2.05	1.76	2.03	1.99	1.63	2.05
1995	2.03	1.82	2.03	1.95	1.54	1.98
1996	2.09	1.76	2.08	1.92	1.80	2.07
1997	2.01	1.71	2.07	1.87	1.75	2.04
1998	1.96	1.74	1.96	1.93	1.79	2.08
1999	1.95	1.63	1.97	1.95	1.67	2.02
2000	2.13	1.83	2.10	1.88	1.59	1.98
2001	2.01	1.59	2.01	1.97	1.66	2.03
2002	1.88	1.56	1.91	1.82	1.64	1.94
2003	1.97	1.67	1.97	1.86	1.61	1.96
2004	1.95	1.65	1.96	1.74	1.63	1.93

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1972–2004, previously unpublished tabulation for 2004 (November 2005).



## Immediate Transition to College

**Table S29-3. Standard errors for the percentage of high school completers who were enrolled in college the October immediately after completing high school, by parents' education: 1992–2004**

Year	Total	Less than high school	High school diploma or equivalent	Some college, including vocational/technical	Bachelor's degree or higher	Not available
1992	1.58	4.99	2.97	3.03	2.44	5.36
1993	1.59	6.00	2.90	3.28	2.09	5.00
1994	1.43	5.00	2.96	2.77	2.06	4.22
1995	1.41	4.44	2.95	2.46	1.79	4.20
1996	1.42	5.63	2.84	2.73	2.01	4.42
1997	1.38	5.51	2.97	2.74	1.86	3.95
1998	1.38	5.61	2.83	2.56	2.12	4.17
1999	1.38	5.00	3.00	2.67	1.99	4.11
2000	1.41	5.49	2.98	2.76	2.06	4.28
2001	1.41	5.29	3.00	2.61	2.06	4.36
2002	1.31	4.90	2.86	2.51	1.88	3.96
2003	1.35	5.61	2.98	2.58	1.94	3.99
2004	1.31	5.12	2.76	2.56	1.72	4.50

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1992–2004, previously unpublished tabulation for 2004 (November 2005).